

## Message Text

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REYKJAVIK USLOSACLANT COMICEDFOR 12 JAN QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: NATO, NAC, IC, UK, EFIS, PFOR  
SUBJ: UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE: JANUARY 12 SPECIAL NAC MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 006744 (DTG 120158Z JAN 76), (B) STATE 006730  
(DTG 101843Z JAN 76), (C) USNATO 0104 (DTG 091800Z JAN 76)

SUMMARY: EXTENSIVE COUNCIL DEBATE FOLLOWING REASONED AND  
DISPASSIONATE PRESENTATIONS OF ICELANDIC AND BRITISH POSITIONS  
PRODUCED FOLLOWING RESULTS:

(A) UNANIMOUS ENDORSEMENT OF AND SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT  
ROLE SYG LUNS WILL PLAY BEGINNING WITH JANUARY 14 VISIT TO  
REYKJAVIK;  
(B) GENERAL RECOGNITION THAT THE PRESENCE OF ROYAL NAVY  
VESSELS IN ICELANDIC FISHING WATERS IS MAJOR OBSTACLE TO  
RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS. MAJORITY OF PERMREPS WHO SPOKE CALLED  
FOR WITHDRAWAL AS FIRST STEP TOWARDS SETTLEMENT. SEVERAL ALSO  
FAVORED CONCURRENT, IF TACIT, RESTRAINT BY ICELANDIC COAST GUARD.  
(C) U  
ANIMOUS EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN AT GRAVITY OF DISPUTES  
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AND AT THE POTENTIAL HARM IT HOLDS FOR THE ALLIANCE, AS WELL AS  
URGENT APPEALS TO THE PARTIES TO EXERCISE THE UTMOST RESTRAINT.  
END SUMMARY.

1. ICELANDIC AND BRITISH PRESENTATIONS. ICELANDIC PERMREP TOMASSON, WHO HAD PREPARED HIS CASE WITH EXTENSIVE DOCUMENTATION DISTRIBUTED IN ADVANCE, CONCENTRATED ON RECOUNTING EVENTS BOTH AT SEA AND ON THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT BEGINNING WITH THE AGUSTSSON/CALLAGHAN BILATERALS DURING THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL. TOMASSON CONTRASTED WHAT HE CALLED HMG'S IMPRESSION OF "SWEET REASONABLENESS" DURING THE DECEMBER MEETINGS WITH THE CONDUCT OF BRITISH FRIGATES AND CONTRACT PROTECTION TUGS RESULTING IN THE SEVERAL "RAMMINGS". TOMASSON EMPHASIZED SIZE AND SPEED OF THE BRITISH VESSELS COMPARED WITH THE SMALLER AND SLOWER ICELANDIC CUTTERS. HE CONCLUDED HIS INSTRUCTED REMARKS SAYING "IF THE BRITISH NAVY CONTINUES TO INTERVENE IN ICELANDIC WATERS I CANNOT CONTINUE TO SIT AT THE SAME TABLE WITH THE UK REPRESENTATIVE". IN A PERSONAL FOOTNOTE TOMASSON SAID THAT THE PREDICTED IRE AGAINST NATO IN ICELAND OF WHICH HIS FOREIGN MINISTER HAD SPOKEN FOUR WEEKS AGO "IS ALREADY UPON US. IF WE CANNOT DO SOMETHING QUICKLY TO OFFER SOME PROSPECT FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, THEN EVEN THE MOST PRO-NATO GOVERNMENT IN REYKJAVIK -- I.E., THE ONE WE HAVE TODAY -- CANNOT FAIL TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CONSEQUENCES."

2. UK PERMREP KILICK SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD TRIED TO AVOID DEBATING THE FACTS IN THE NATOFORUM AND THUS HAD NOT DISTRIBUTED DOCUMENTATION IN ADVANCE. BUT HE HASTENED TO ADD THAT HIS GOVERNMENT "WAS NOT IN ANY WAY PUT OUT" THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND CALLED FOR COUNCIL MEETING. HE REPEATED CALLAGHAN'S DECEMBER STATEMENTS IN TO EFFECT THAT A REASONABLE COMPROMISE CAN AND WILL BE NEGOTIATED; AND HE INSISTED THE "SWEET REASONABLENESS" WAS NOT EXHIBITED SIMPLY FOR THE SAKE OF CREATING AN IMPRESSION. HMG IS STILL WILLING TO ENGAGE IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS THE ICELANDERS MAY HAVE SEEN. KILICK THEN PROCEEDED TO ARGUE THE BRITISH CASE, RELYING HEAVILY UPON EXISTING INTERNATIONAL LAW AND UPON THE FACT THAT BRITISH CONSERVATION EXPERTS HAD DIFFERENT DATA AND INTERPRETATIONS REGARDING THE FISHING RESOURCES

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AROUND ICELAND WHICH THEY WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH THEIR ICELANDIC COUNTERPARTS. KILICK CONCLUDED ON THE AFFIRMATIVE NOTE THAT NAC MEETING COULD OFFER A PROSPECT FOR MOVING MATTERS FORWARD, AND HE WAS OPEN TO ANY SUGGESTIONS OR WILLING TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.

3. ALLIED REACTIONS  
US: AMBASSADOR BRUCE, DRAWING ON REFTELS, LED WITH STATEMENT WHICH, TOGETHER WITH DE STAERCKE'S (BELGIUM) INTERVENTION, SET TONE FOR GENERALLY INSTRUCTED STATEMENTS BY OTHERS UNDERLINING GRAVITY OF ISSUES INVOLVED.  
-- BELGIUM: DE STAERCKE ENDORSED THE US STATEMENT, REEMPHASIZED THE DANGERS FOR THE ALLIANCE AND ALLIED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT

HOPES FOR A SETTLEMENT RAISED BY THE MINISTERIAL BILATERALS HAD NOT BEEN FULFILLED. DE STAERCKE SAID HE THOUGHT THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM WAS THE USE BY THE UK OF DISPROPORTIONATE FORCE. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO WITHDRAW THE ROYAL NAVY, THEREBY ENABLING THE SYG TO OBTAIN ASSURANCES OF SOME TACIT RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF ICELAND.

-- TURKEY: ERAKP PLEADED THAT NO IRREVOCABLE STEP BE TAKEN BY EITHER PARTY. HE SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED ICELANDIC BREAKING RELATIONS WITH THE UK AS A STEP THAT WOULD DO ONLY HARM, AND ADDED THAT, IN HIS JUDGMENT, NO GOOD WILL COME FROM BLAMING NATO FOR DISPUTES THAT ARISE BETWEEN ALLIES.

-- GREECE: THEODOROPOULOS DISCUSSED LAW OF THE SEA ISSUES INVOLVED, CALLED FOR RESTRAINT, AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THAT ICELAND HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN CALLING UPON SYG LUNS.

-- NORWAY: BUSCH RECALLED FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND'S ADVICE THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ROYAL NAVY WAS A NECESSARY FIRST STEP.

-- DENMARK: SVART SAID HIS GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED THE EXCEPTIONAL RELIANCE OF ICELAND ON THE FISHERIES RESOURCES FOR ITS VERY EXISTENCE. DENMARK ALSO SUPPORTS THE 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. SVART ALSO CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF BRITISH NAVAL ELEMENTS, SAYING THAT SUCH A GESTURE SHOULD BE RECIPROCATED BY CURTAILMENT OF ICELANDIC HARASSMENT, AT LEAST DURING NEGOTIATIONS.

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-- CANADA: MENZIES SPOKE OF THE STATESMANLIKE DECISION TAKEN BY THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER IN THE 1973 DISPUTE, WHEN HE ACTED TO RECALL THE ROYAL NAVY AND THUS SET IN MOTION EVENTS WHICH LED TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. MENZIES SAID OTTAWA FEELS THIS ACTION SHOULD BE RECIPROCATED BY ICELANDIC CESSATION OF HARASSMENT. RECALLING CANADIAN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION, HE SAID THAT THERE SHOULD BE INTERIM VOLUNTARY REDUCTIONS OF THE CATCH DURING NEGOTIATIONS.

-- ITALY: CATALANO ASKED THE ICELANDIC REPRESENTATIVE TO EMPHASIZE TO HIS GOVERNMENT THE USEFULNESS OF THE ICELANDIC DELEGATION REMANING AT NATO HEADQUARTERS AND IN THE COUNCIL.

-- FRG: KRAPF EMPHASIZED HIS GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION THAT, WHILE OUTCOME OF ISSUES INVOLVED IS IMPORTANT FOR GREAT BRITAIN, IT IS VITAL FOR ICELAND. KRAPF, TOO, RECOMMENDED THE PROCEDURES INVOLVED IN THE SETTLEMENT TWO YEARS AGO AS EXAMPLES WHICH SHOULD BE FOLLOWED.

-- NETHERLANDS: HARTOGH ENDORSED THE US STATEMENT AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE ISSUES WERE NOT MERELY LEGAL BUT INVOLVED LARGER QUESTIONS OF GOOD PARTNERSHIP IN ALLIANCE.

-- FRANCE: TINE, ASKING THAT HIS SILENCE NOT BE MISINTERPRETED, SAID HE INTENDED TO REPORT DEVELOPMENTS AND CIRCULATE INSTRUCTED VIEWS LATER.

4. LUN'S SUMMATION:

- (A) ALL WERE VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE FOR THE ALLIANCE THAT DISPUTE NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.
- (B) THERE WAS "GENERAL RECOGNITION" THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE ROYAL NAVY IN ICELANDIC WATERS HAS NOT BEEN CONDUCIVE TO FINDING A SOLUTION.
- (C) HE WAS GRATEFUL AND ENCOURAGED BY THE WORDS OF SUPPORT FOR THE MISSION HE HAD OUTLINED FOR HIMSELF.

5. COMMENT: PRIOR TO NAC MEETING, AMBASSADOR BRUCE MET WITH LUNS AND DE STAERCKE TO REVIEW US POSITION AND DISCERN INTENTIONS OF OTHERS. LUNS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US APPROACH AND INDICATED HIS PLAN TO VISIT REYKJAVIK BEGINNING JANUARY 14, AND HOPEFULLY LONDON ON JANUARY 18. HE ALSO

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SAID TOMASSON WAS WORRIED BECAUSE OF AGUSTSSON'S CONTINUING ILLNESS WHICH TOOK LATTER AWAY FROM THE SCENE AT A CRITICAL TIME. TOMASSON ALSO REPORTED TO LUNS THAT ICELANDIC PRIMIN HAD TOLD HIM THAT IF UK FRIGATES ARE NOT WITHDRAWN, TOMASSON WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TO ATTEND NAC SESSIONS. LUNS ALSO SAID HE SUBSEQUENTLY HAD TOLD KILICK PRIVATELY THAT IF UK NAVY STAYS, ICELANDERS WILL REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE. DE STAERCKE, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH BRUCE, FORE-SHADOWED POSITION HE LATER TOOK IN NAC, AS DID OTHER DELREPS IN SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH US MISSION OFFICERS.

6. WE BELIEVE NAC SESSION FULLY SERVED PURPOSES SOUGHT BY DEPARTMENT, AND ESPECIALLY SUPPORTED LUNS' ROLE. MOREOVER, MEETING PROBABLY WENT FAR TO MEET ICELANDIC OBJECTIVES, AND MESSAGE TO UK FROM STRONG AND VOCAL MAJORITY WAS CLEARLY THAT, IN EYES OF MOST, UK BEARS ON US FOR CURRENT VOLATILE SITUATION THAT CAN BEST BE ATTENUATED BY SPEEDY WITHDRAWAL OF ROYAL NAVY UNITS. END COMMENT.

7. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AGREED NATO PRESS RELEASE ISSUED FOLLOWING THE NAC:

BEGIN TEXT:

"THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MET TODAY AT 4 P.M. AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND AND HEARD STATEMENTS BY THE ICELANDIC PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, AMBASSADOR TOMAS A. TOMASSON, AND THE UK PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, AMBASSADOR SIR JOHN KILICK. THESE STATEMENTS WERE FOLLOWED BY AN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION. THE COUNCIL GENERALLY EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN AT THIS DISPUTE, WHICH NOT ONLY WAS HARMFUL TO THE RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO ALLIED COUNTRIES, BUT ALSO TO THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE. AN APPEAL TO EXERCISE UTMOST RESTRAINT

WAS ADDRESSED TO THE TWO PARTIES IN THE DISPUTE. THE SECRETARY GENERAL, DR. J.M.A.H. LUNS, INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND TO VISIT REYKJAVIK FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT HE HOPED THEREAFTER ALSO TO VISIT LONDON. HE WILL GO TO ICELAND IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. THE COUNCIL EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THESE VISITS WILL PROMOTE THE URGENTLY REQUIRED SOLUTION".

END TEXT.BRUCE UNQUOTE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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